

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 06854 030106Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 VO-03 CA-01 INR-07 H-01 L-03
DHA-05 /046 W

-----110402 030119Z /73

R 021339Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5475

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 6854

STADIS////////////////////

FOR NEA/ARN DRAPER

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINR, SY
SUBJ: SYRIAN JEWRY

1. TOUTAH AND NOSSEIRI TOLD DCM NOV 1 THAT TRAVEL FREEZE
ON JEWISH COMMUNITY MEMBERS CONTINUED IN EFFECT. COMMUNITY
HAD HEARD NOTHING FURTHER REGARDING REPORT WHICH SECURITY
AUTHORITIES HAD SUBMITTED TO PRESIDENT ASSAD ON INDIVIDUALS
WHO HAD VISITED ISRAEL DURING THEIR TRIPS OUTSIDE SYRIA.

2. TOUTAH SAID HE HAD BEEN SUMMONED TO COL. MESSA'LOUD'S
OFFICE
OCTOBER 30 TO TAKE CHARGE OF FOUR JEWISH GIRLS
FROM THE BAWABI (PHON) FAMILY IN ALEPPO WHO HAD BEEN
APPREHENDED ATTEMPTING TO CROSS BORDER TO TURKEY NEAR
IDLIB. MESSA'LOUD HAD LECTURED GIRLS IN TOUTAH'S PRESENCE
ABOUT DANGERS OF TRYING TO ESCAPE AND ABOUT EXCELLENT STATE
OF SECURITY PROVIDED TO COMMUNITY IN ALEPPO. HE HAD
INSISTED ON OBTAINING TOUTAH'S PERSONAL GUARANTEE THAT
GIRLS WOULD NOT TRY TO ESCAPE AGAIN BEFORE TURNING THEM OVER.
TOUTAH SAID HE HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO GIVE IT.

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EM TOUTAH SPOKE OF SOUNDING OUT MESSA'LOUD IN NEAR FUTURE
ON POSSIBILITY OF ALLOWING BUSINESSMEN WHOSE
LIVELIHOOD DEPENDS ON ORDERS FROM ABROAD AND WHO HAVE NOT
ABUSED PAST INSTANCES OF TRAVEL ABROAD TO VISIT THEIR
EUROPEAN CUSTOMERS. IN THIS HE WAS PROBABLY SPEAKING FOR
BENEFIT OF NOSSEIRI WHO HAS BEEN PUSHING HIM HARD TO TRY
TO OPEN DOOR FOR MERCHANT TRAVEL. TOUTAH WAS, WE SENSED,

STILL VERY RELUCTANT TO CALL ON MESSA'UD OF HIS OWN
INITIATIVE. MURPHY

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Message Attributes

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